

## Questions and Answers on the FY16 Solicitation

### QUESTION

I have gone through the level 1 & 2 registration process and I am hoping you can help me understand where and how VMP can best align with the MGD initiatives. VMP Nutrition is also registered with SAM - DUNS #035735750 Cage Code 6Y8M6. VMP Nutrition seeks to be a provider of nutrient-dense, micronutrient products for undernourished children and for school feeding programs. We are able to offer our products, along with monitoring and data collection, in Haiti, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Guatemala. We have three products to offer:

- A High Energy Biscuit built to USAID standards
- An A-20 Paste built to USAID standards
- A micronutrient gel containing 24 vitamins and minerals, plus protein

As I read through the MGD guidelines, I have a few questions. While I believe that VMP is a great fit to provide nutritional products and evaluation of their impact, teacher training is not in our scope of work. Are there organizations that have the ability to execute all areas of the MGD Initiatives? Or are there organization that are primarily educators, for which VMP could be the provider of nutrition and morning micronutrient snacks, and also providing the teacher training regarding proper nutrition, sanitation and hygiene?

You may be interested to know that VMP is currently conducting a research study in conjunction with the University of California, Davis and the Thammasat University Faculty of Medicine to assess the impact of our micronutrient gel on cognitive performance in 7-9 year old school children. VMP Nutrition in a registered U.S minority company, manufacturing products in the United States. In summary, we are asking for guidance on how best to structure a proposal to the MGD Initiative, with our common goal of nourishing children around the world.

### RESPONSE

*Of the three products you mention the "micronutrient gel" would likely have the best application for McGovern-Dole beneficiaries.*

*Improving literacy is a crucial component within McGovern-Dole as you saw from reading through the FY16 solicitation. If you were to apply for funding and were unable to carry out activities such as teacher training you would need to partner with a sub recipient on those activities. There are organizations that carry out all aspects of the program but many groups partner with others that have specific expertise such as literacy, teacher training etc. My advice would be to reach out to current implementers of McGovern-Dole Programs to explain VMP's expertise in providing nutritional products and evaluating impact to find a suitable partner. These organizations can be found at the following link:*

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/mcgovern-dole-food-education-program/active-mcgovern-dole-projects>